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TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [EUN](#) [KPAO](#) [TBIO](#) [SI](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVENIA: NO RESPONSE ON BIOTECH CORN, BUT
UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT

REF: A. SECSTATE 14566

[1](#)B. LJUBLJANA 36

[1](#)1. (SBU) Emboff delivered demarche per reftel A on February 20 to Alenka Zupancic, Acting Head of Service for EU Coordination and International Affairs and State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. Zupancic said she could not give a response to this issue. However, ministry officials recently told Emboffs that Slovenia will always either vote against GMOs or abstain from voting on GMO issues (reftel B). They specifically mentioned that because Slovenia does not have corn borer, there is no benefit to Slovenia in the use of biotech corn. Ministry officials also stated that Slovenia will never support biotech corn until the government sees a three-year controlled study on the effects on cattle fed exclusively on biotech corn. While the typical stance of the GoS on biotech organisms is very conservative, the officials have assured us that they will not impose stricter guidelines than those set by the EU and will adhere to the EU's position.
FREDEN